

# JORDAN TIMES

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## Vance to tour Middle East in Feb.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (AFP). — U.S. Secretary of State designate Cyrus Vance will tour the Middle East at the end of February to evaluate peace prospects in the area, a member of Mr. Vance's staff announced today. Mr. Vance is to visit Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel, the announcement said. At the same time, Mr. Vance will invite heads of state of these countries to come to Washington to discuss directly with President-elect Jimmy Carter.

## Following violent demonstrations

# Egyptian government backs down on price hikes

CAIRO, Jan. 18 (AFP). — The Egyptian government is prepared to reconsider price increases which triggered worker-student demonstrations in Cairo, Helwan and Alexandria today, the Middle East News Agency reported.

The agency quoted Fuad Mohamed, the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, as saying that the government was willing to make "an objective reexamination" of the price hikes announced yesterday in order to "spare the working classes".

The price increases included hikes of 10 to 20 per cent on gasoline, more on propane gas for cooking, and five to 10 per cent on cigarettes. Excise taxes were boosted 100 to 250 per cent on household equipment and 100 to 150 per cent on cars.

To offset the austerity moves, salaries of government workers were raised 22 per cent and taxes were reduced among the lowest income groups.

Tension in Egypt's three main cities had eased noticeably this evening. In Cairo, several dozen students continued to demonstrate at the central train station, however, shouting "Nasser, Nasser" and brandishing a portrait of the late president.

Police did not intervene at the station, although they used tear gas grenades to disperse demonstrators at Ataba Square in the centre of town after youthful protesters stoned a police station.

Thousands of Egyptian students and workers had earlier rampaged through central Cairo in an outburst of anger over the wide-ranging price increases ordered by the government.

They broke up cars, demolished buses, smashed shop windows and shattered street lights.

In Liberation Square in the heart of Cairo, flanked on one side by the Nile Hilton Hotel and the Arab League headquarters, the demonstrators massed round a three-metre poster of President Sadat.

They hurled stones at it and eventually ripped it down, tearing it to pieces and throwing the scraps into a fountain.

The demonstrators hurled stones and bricks at the riot police, who retaliated by throwing them back and firing volleys of tear gas as students chanted "Down with Sadat" and "Nasser, Nasser, Nasser."

Earlier, demonstrators invaded the Alexandria home of Vice President Hosni Mubarak, dragged carpets from the house and burned them.

The protests began this morning in the industrial city of Helwan, just to the south of Cairo, where demonstrations against previous price increases led to riots by Cairo workers on new year's day 1975.

Security police closed the doors of a factory in Helwan and barred people from entering or leaving, informed sources said.

To prevent further trouble, the Egyptian government decided to close schools and universities for 48 hours, it was announced.

## King Hussein tells Egyptian weekly

# PLO must have independent representation at Geneva

CAIRO (JT). — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) must participate in the reconvened Geneva Middle East Peace Conference as an independent party and on the same footing as all other Arab countries, His Majesty King Hussein stressed in an interview with the Egyptian weekly magazine "Akher Saa" which will be published Wednesday.

"We adhere completely to the Rahat summit resolutions appointing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, his Majesty said. Our relationship with the Palestinian people is and will remain based on brotherhood, and we, along with the rest of the world, approve their right to self determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian entity on any

parts of Palestinian soil which are liberated.

For geographical, historical and national reasons, the King added, we are working towards the establishment of the closest relations with the Palestinian people, for we are united by destiny and common objectives.

As for what type of relationship should develop between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, that is a question to be determined by the two peoples and it is only natural that any such links would be close, King Hussein said.

"We approve President Sadat's policy to achieve peace in the region," and Jordan has welcomed the political coordination between Syria and Egypt which, coupled with that between Jordan and Syria, will have important repercussions, the King said.

On the Geneva Middle East peace conference, the King said that he agreed with President Sadat to follow up coordination between confrontation states so as to present a unified and clear position at the conference.

The Geneva conference, he said, will be the testing ground for Israel's intentions in relation to peace.

Speaking of the stands of the great powers on the Middle East crisis, His Majesty said the major powers, the United States and the Soviet Union -- in their capacity of co-chairmen of the Geneva conference -- should work to achieve a just and permanent peace in the area. This could be achieved only with the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied territories and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

His Majesty stressed that the Arabs should take advantage of the increasing world support for the Arab cause to push their case forward.

His Majesty hailed the steadfastness of the Arabs in the occupied territories, and said that this factor coupled with cooperation between the Arab countries, will be "the effective factor" to achieve our national goal of liberation.

His Majesty concluded by saying that he hoped that President Sadat's visit to Jordan will take place soon.

## Arms collection in Lebanon remains a top priority, Syrian defence minister says

DAMASCUS, Jan. 18 (R). — Syrian Defence Minister Maj. Gen. Mustafa Tlas today said Syria was keen to implement resolutions of the Arab summit held in Cairo on Lebanon last October, "especially the collection of all kinds of arms."

"This will help the people of Lebanon enjoy permanent peace," he added.

Gen. Tlas was speaking to Syrian soldiers in the Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon during a visit to Syrian positions there today accompanied by Maj. Gen. Naji Jamil, his deputy and air force commander.

In a separate development, two Lebanese leaders returned to Beirut from Damascus tonight after what they described as a successful visit to the Syrian capital.

Former Lebanese President Sulaiman Franjeh was accompanied on the eight-hour visit by Phalangist leader Pierre Gemayel and Mr. Franjeh's son, Tony.

The Phalangist Radio quoted the two leaders as saying the trip was successful.

While in Damascus they met President Hafez Assad and Syrian Premier, Abdul Rahman Khleifawi.

The talks covered the development of the situation in Lebanon and the Arab region, the radio said.

It added that discussions also dealt with the mission of the Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon, coordination between the two countries and the situation in south Lebanon.

The talks were aimed at averting a resumption of the fighting, the radio said.

President Assad, meanwhile, told Lebanese reporters accompanying Mr. Franjeh and Mr. Gemayel the situation in Lebanon was satisfactory and gradually improving.

## ad Ahmgypt, Syria, Sudan to hold summit next month

RTOM, Jan. 18 (R). — A summit conference of Presidents of Egypt, Syria and Sudan is to be held here next month, the Sudanese newspaper al-Naba reported today. It quoted Sudanese Vice President Al Rasheed Al Tahir Bakr. The Cairo newspaper Al Ahram reported four days ago that a summit would take place soon, but did not say that it would be in February, nor that the presidents would gather in Khartoum.

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Majesty King Hussein receives heads of delegations to the meetings of the Arab Parliamentary Union at the Royal Hashemite Palace Wednesday. They are from right: Mr. Kamel As'ad (Lebanon), Mohammed Ali Al Halabi (Syria), Mr. Bahjat Talhoumi (Jordan), and Mr. Khaled Al Fahoum (Iraq). The Council of the Arab Parliamentary Union resumed its session Tuesday morning with Bahjat Talhoumi in the chair. A committee comprising all participating countries was formed to study the union's budget for this year. Mr. Fawzi Al Umdah, of Egypt, was re-elected secretary of the Union for the second time. The council also decided to hold its next session in the Arab Emirates or in Sudan.

## EC signs cooperation accords with Jordan, Syria, Egypt

Brussels, Jan. 18 (Agencies). — The European Economic Community (EEC) today signed cooperation agreements and interim agreements on trade in goods with Egypt and Syria similar to those concluded last April with Morocco and Tunisia.

Similar agreements have been concluded with Israel on May 11, 1975. An additional protocol and a financial cooperation protocol between the European Communities and Israel will be signed on Feb. 8 on the occasion of the next session of the council of Foreign ministers.

Lebanon, which dropped out of latest negotiations because of its civil war, will open talks here tomorrow on drafting a similar agreement, EEC development commissioner Claude Cheysson said.

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## Richard arrives in Cape Town with Foreign Office proposals

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 18 (R). — Britain's Rhodesia envoy Ivor Richard tonight said his Southern Africa shuttle mission was aimed at preventing a catastrophe.

Mr. Richard, the chairman of the deadlocked Geneva conference on Rhodesia, arrived here for fresh talks with South African Prime Minister John Vorster.

He told reporters: "We are engaged on an enterprise the object of which is to stop a war and produce a peaceful transition (to majority rule in Rhodesia)."

"We are trying to prevent a catastrophe. I am quite certain if we don't get a peaceful settlement then the potentialities for the future are extremely grave."

In London, the Foreign Office had announced earlier that new detailed proposals for direct British participation in any period of interim rule in Rhodesia would be submitted in writing prior to Mr. Richard's arrival at all interested parties in Southern Africa.

Apart from South African and Rhodesian Premiers Vorster and Ian Smith, whom Mr. Richard is scheduled to meet tomorrow and Friday respectively, the new proposals will be circulated to the presidents of the five "front-line" countries — Mozambique, Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania and Angola — and the four black nationalist leaders, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

Mr. Richard began his shuttle three weeks ago in an attempt to form a basis for the resumption of the adjourned conference.

He meets Mr. Vorster tomorrow. The British envoy met Mr. Vor-



OPEC'S MAN IN VIENNA -- The new Secretary General of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Mr. Ali Mohammed Jaidah of Qatar, talks to reporters after his arrival in Vienna Tuesday to assume his new duties. (AP wirephoto).

## Tito may cut short trip to Libya, Egypt

BRAD, Jan. 18 (AFP). — Yugoslavia's President Tito may shorten his current trip to Libya, following the death in an air crash of his Prime Minister, Dzemal Bijedic, observers said here.

Mr. Tito, who arrived in Libya last week, was expected to return to Yugoslavia to attend Mr. Bijedic's funeral, and thus cancel a week-long visit to Egypt which he was to have begun Thursday after the funeral.

Some sources said that authorities in Belgrade, Cairo and all were today holding consultations on the consequences of the premier's death.

President Tito might not, however, make a sudden change in his programme, the observers said. He is nearly 85, the Yugoslav leader can no longer jump one plane to another.

Every trip he makes is minutely programmed by his doctors. His health is a top priority of the Yugoslav leadership.

Some sources said that President Tito had planned to discuss

## Yugoslav premier dies in air crash

BELGRADE, Jan. 18 (AFP). — Yugoslav Prime Minister Dzemal Bijedic died today in an air crash. It was officially announced here.

Mr. Bijedic's wife Razija and the pilot of the small plane in which they were travelling were also killed.

The plane was believed to have crashed into the side of a mountain after being caught in a snow storm en route to Sarajevo, Bosnia, from Belgrade.

Mr. Bijedic had left Batajnica Military Airport outside the capital a short time after seeing off President Josip Broz Tito who left Yugoslavia this morning for a 10-day tour of Libya and Egypt.

Born in 1917 in Bosnia, Mr. Bijedic was named premier in July 1971.



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## Touché

French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has struck a fine blow for the principles of honesty and courage in his sharp criticisms of those who lashed out at the French decision to release Abu Dawud last week. President Giscard d'Estaing hit the nail on the head when he suggested that the anti-French campaign in the Western media resulted from something other than the French court's decision to release Abu Dawud. He noted: "Some countries did not accept France's independent policy as implemented by us."

We are especially pleased by his statements that French policy will not be made "in the editorial offices of some of the international news media," because the Abu Dawud affair last week made it dramatically clear that many of the policies of the editorial offices of the international news media are made and moulded in Tel Aviv. If ever there has been a sorry spectacle of shattered, shallow and scared men, it was those editorial writers throughout the Western World last week who jumped when Israel jumped, screamed when Israel screamed and expressed truckloads of outrage when Israel opened wide the faucets of its own calculated anger. We are heartened by the fact that there are some people in the West who are not afraid to stand up and go against the tide, who are honest enough in spirit to question the slogans that are hurled with wild abandon by those editorial writers who are mysteriously more shocked and driven to passionate prose when Israel is the focus of their concern than when anyone else is the focus of their concern.

The Western editorialists have to learn that Israel is a nation of mortals, not a nation of supermen. They must learn that the Israelis are human beings who must come before the bar of justice just like any other human being. They must learn that codes of ethics cannot be bent or amended just to satisfy the special manias of the Israelis. The Western editorialists have to learn that Western crimes against the Jewish people cannot be atoned for by heaping scorn and racist derision against the Arabs. They have to learn that just because the Israelis say the Arabs are the enemies of Israel, this does not mean that the Arabs are also the enemies of the West. They have to learn that the process of the humiliation and intellectual denigration of the West will only be heightened by such displays of servility and of the pack mentality of the entire Western press as we witnessed sorrowfully last week. The Western editorialists will have to learn that their words will only mean anything when they are written freely and honestly. We think President Giscard d'Estaing is trying to tell them some of these things, and he is a brave man to do so.

The Abu Dawud affair will not be remembered as a landmark of international law. Nor will it mean anything in relation to France's so-called pro-Arab policies. Both these are excuses that sound plausible, and thus are dragged out to be used to club France over the head.

The Abu Dawud affair will be remembered most importantly because it was a rare example of how some people in this world are not scared of the Israelis, and, which is even more important, are not scared of the overwhelming machinery of character assassination and intimidation that Zionism can crank up in a matter of hours. The affair will be remembered by us as a sickening example of how most journalists and editorial writers in the West will scamper and stand on their hind legs and jump for the cheese when the signal to do so is given by Israel, and the most sickening aspect of it is that these people do not know, or will not admit, that they are dancing to the tunes of Israel. The fact that some people like President Giscard d'Estaing will stand up in the middle of this mob scene and ask the world to see how it dribbles all over itself is doubly refreshing. What is at stake is not the freedom of Abu Dawud, but the freedom of the West.

The French are being attacked this week not because they have freed Abu Dawud, but because they have freed themselves.

## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Jordanian newspapers Tuesday continued to comment on the meeting of the Council of the Arab Parliamentary Union, which His Majesty King Hussein opened in Amman Monday.

Welcoming the conference delegations, Al Rai points out that "democracy, in any of its concepts, is still absent in many parts of the Arab homeland and present as only a formality in others."

The paper says that any Arab regime not built on democratic principles is bound to reflect its pattern of rule on all neighbouring countries. The reasons are sundry, among which are that deviation from a logical dialogue and resort to imposing one's points of view would create favourable conditions for counter-measures in these countries. Another reason is the belief of some people in the idea of the "benevolent despot", who behaves as a trustee for the masses, and who inculcates narrow regional trends at the

expense of all-national interests. Al Dustour says King Hussein has called on Arab parliamentarians to rise up to the historical trust invested in them. This trust is represented by three platforms:

First, a contribution to the advancement of Arab unity through fostering popular ties among Arab countries; second, a deepening of democratic tendencies; and third, the working for the creation of popular political institutions, in which joint Arab action would be debated in a spirit of responsibility and conscientious objectivity.

Al Sha'b stresses that democracy, as a method and behaviour, is not strange to Arab heritage and history, as it has been engendered in the Arab individual since old times, colouring his very life in the desert, village and town; and it was "the base from which Arab civilisation stemmed under the aegis of Islam's injunction on mutual consultation."

# Signed in Brussels Tuesday

## Jordanian-EEC cooperation agreement covers technical, financial, commercial areas

The aim of the agreement between the EEC and Jordan is to establish wide-ranging cooperation which will contribute to the economic and social development of Jordan and help strengthen relations between the two parties. To this end the agreement provides for the implementation of provisions and measures in the field of economic, financial and technical cooperation and in trade.

The agreement, which is of unspecified duration, also incorporates a general review clause, with the date, set for the first examination, being 1979.

The basic provisions of the two sections of the agreement may be summarised as follows:

### Economic, technical and financial cooperation

The aim of such cooperation is to contribute to the development of Jordan by efforts complementary to those made by Jordan itself, and to strengthen existing economic links on as broad a basis as possible to the mutual benefit of the parties. With this in mind, the purpose of cooperation will be to promote in particular:

— participation by the EEC in the efforts made by Jordan to develop its production and economic infrastructure;

— the marketing and sales promotion of products exported by Jordan;

— industrial cooperation (contacts between industrial policy-makers, facilities for the acquisition of patents on favourable terms, etc.);

— the participation by EEC operators in programmes for the exploration, production and processing of Jordan's resources and any activities which would develop these resources on the spot;

— cooperation in the fields of science, technology and the protection of the environment;

— cooperation in the fisheries sector;

— the encouragement of private investments which are in the mutual interest of both parties;

— exchange of information on the economic and financial situation.

The Cooperation Council, which will periodically define the general guidelines of cooperation, will be responsible for seeking ways and means of implementing the aims of such cooperation.

Moreover, the contracting parties may specify other areas in which cooperation can be applied.

Under the agreement, the contracting parties also undertake to ensure the proper execution of cooperation and investment contracts which are in their mutual interest and fall within the framework of the agreement.

A Financial Protocol is concluded until Oct. 31, 1981, viz. for a period of less than five years after the signing.

Under this protocol a total figure of 40 million Eur UA will be made available to Jordan, broken down as follows: 18 million Eur UA in EIB loans, 18 million Eur UA in gifts and 4 million Eur UA in loans on special terms.

A European Unit of Account (Eur/UA) is approximately equal to U.S. \$1.25. Thus, the amounts mentioned above would come to: \$50 million for the total figure, \$22.5 million each in EIB loans and gifts and \$5 million in special-term loans.

These amounts will be used for financing:

— investment projects in the fields of production and economic infrastructure in Jordan;

— technical cooperation as a preliminary or complement to investment projects drawn up by Jordan; technical cooperation in the field of training.

### Commercial cooperation

In the commercial sphere, the aim of the agreement is to promote trade between the parties, taking account of their respective levels of development and of the need to achieve a better balance in trade between them, with a view to accelerating Jordan's commercial growth rate and improving the conditions of access for Jordanian products to the EEC market.

(a) Industrial products from Jordan imported into EEC countries: Almost all such products will benefit from full duty-free entry as from July 1, 1977 and no quantitative restrictions will be applied.

However, there will be supervision of certain products originating in Jordan which are regarded as being sensitive within the EEC. In particular, an annual ceiling (above which third country customs duties may be introduced) is envisaged for other woven fabrics of cotton (100 tonnes — CCT heading 33.09).

This ceiling will be increased after the first year and abolished completely by the end of 1979 at the latest.

(b) As regards agricultural products, there is provision for concessions in respect of a certain number of products originating in Jordan. These concessions, which mainly cover fresh or dried fruit and vegetables (partly onions and garlic, partly fruit, sweet peppers) consist essentially of tariff reductions which vary depending on the product — and in certain cases timetables may be specified. It is also agreed that the visions of the common agricultural policy will be applied.

### General and final provisions

These provisions include:

— A system of safeguard uses;

— the powers of the which is to administer the agreement (Cooperation Council);

— a general review clause;

— a non-discrimination clause.

The cooperation agreement will enter into force upon completion of necessary ratification procedures in Jordan and the member states of the EEC.

To permit advance implementation of the commercial provisions of the cooperation agreement interim agreement has been entered into force as soon as possible.

## Verbal duel breaks out between As'ad, Al Fahoum

At Arab parliamentary meet

AMMAN, Jan. 18 (R). — Lebanese and Palestinian parliamentarians traded accusations at a meeting here of the inter-Arab parliamentary union, according to the Amman daily Al Rai.

The newspaper said the hour's exchange between Lebanese Speaker Kamel Al As'ad and Mr. Khalid Al Fahoum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, took place at yesterday's opening session.

After King Hussein opened the meeting and several other delegates had spoken Mr. As'ad attacked the presence in Lebanon of an armed Palestinian movement and denounced its "leftist Marxist affiliations."

Mr. Fahoum admitted that mistakes had been made, but said "the future is better than the past and we are looking forward to the day when we have our own independent national entity."

"We do not want a substitute homeland and we reject any tutelage. We are a people who have our legitimate rights and fight for the liberation of our territory. We shall continue to do so with the support of all our Arab brothers," Mr. Fahoum said.

The verbal duel stopped only after intervention by the Jordanian chairman of the meeting, Mr. Bahjat Al Talhouni and Mr. Mohammed Ali Al Halaby, Speaker of Syria's Council of the People.

## MILITARY TEA VISITS UAE

ABU DHABI (JNA). — A Jordanian military delegation led by Maj. Gen. Atallah Ghaseb, Chief of Staff for Man p arrived here Tuesday on a day official visit to the U.A.E. (UAE).

The delegation will hold talks with the officials of the UAE military forces on military cooperation in training and the exchange of experience between Jordan and UAE. The delegation will meet members of the Jordanian military mission here.

On arrival at Abu Dhabi Maj. Gen. Ghaseb was received by Major Seif Ibn Mubarak commander of the southern military zone, and a number of ranking officers.



Mr. Khalid Al Fahoum



Mr. Kamel As'ad

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### Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.S. dollar	332.0	334.0
U.K. sterling	571.0	577.0
German mark	139.1	139.5
French franc	66.9	67.2
(for every 100)	37.7	37.9
Syrian pound	82.9	82.6
Lebanese pound	113.6	115.0
Saudi riyal	94.4	94.8
Iraqi dinar	945.0	952.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1156.0	1162.0
UAE dirham	83.2	83.5
Libyan dinar	735.0	745.0
Egyptian pound	455.0	465.0

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مركز الصحافة



## 139 "leftists" on trial in Morocco declare indefinite hunger-strike

## Giscard rules out reflation until French trade balance is restored

SABLANCA, Jan. 18 (AFP). — All 139 alleged Marxist-Leninist defendants on trial here on charges of having tried to overthrow the Moroccan regime yesterday announced plans for a hunger-strike to protest the "manifestly partiality" shown by trial president Judge Ahmad Afzaz.

PARIS, Jan. 18 (AFP). — President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing yesterday ruled out early action in France to spur the economy.

Addressing a televised news conference, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said there would be no direct steps to reflate until the trade balance was restored.

Reflationary measures, he said, would boost demand and widen the nation's trade gap.

The president said France was currently exporting 22 per cent of its gross national product (GNP), compared with 19.6 per cent two years ago.

But he hinted that a fresh drive to export would soon be undertaken, saying talks were scheduled between France and its partners in the European Economic Community (EEC).

Calling the austerity plan put forward by Prime Minister Raymond Barre on target, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said that it was too early to judge it definitively.

He said first fruits of the plan should not be expected before mid-1977 with regard to improving the country's trade position.

"The recovery plan is not a sprint, but a long-distance effort," he said.

But he noted that there were already signs of recovery in the economy.

Latest statistics showed stability and even slight improvement in the job market, he said, adding that the consumer price index would stand "well below 10 per cent" for 1976 as a whole.

Industrial production, he added,

rose more than 11 per cent in November from a year earlier.

"These are signs of steps in the right direction," the president said. "They mean we are on the right road and we must continue it," he added.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing stressed that, contrary to usual remarks, 1976 was a year of growth for France with investments progressing seven per cent in volume over a year earlier.

The economy expanded five per cent, the president said, comparing this with a 1.5 per cent decline in production in 1975.

"France must pursue its effort for fixed investment," he added, saying the government was preparing measures to spur capital spending for equipment purchases.

Turning to the government move to restructure certain key industries, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said that progress towards "renovation" of nuclear power had been "considerable".

He cited creation of the Framatome Corporation, which was formerly under license of Westinghouse Corp., of the U.S.

Also mentioned by the president was the purchase by a French company of Societe le Matériel Téléphonique (LMT), formerly a unit of International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. (ITT).

He said the government was studying problems in other key industries but that these were not strictly French issues.

The president cited restructuring of the automobile and oil industries.

### Giscard to discuss more economics than politics in Jeddah

PARIS, Jan. 18 (AFP). — Economic affairs will play second fiddle to politics when French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing visits Saudi Arabia from Jan. 22 to 25, government sources said here today.

But they added that energy would be the chief economic topic. France's oil imports from Saudi Arabia being well up on last year.

In the first 10 months of 1976 imports (entirely oil) came to 15,888 million francs while exports by France were only 1,305 million francs, giving a deficit for the 10 months of 14,583 million francs (about \$3,000 million).

These figures compare with imports in the whole of 1975 of 13,054 million francs and exports of 853 million francs, giving a deficit for the year of 12,200 million francs (\$2,500 million).

France last year got 36 per cent of its crude oil from Saudi Arabia and was its second biggest customer after Japan. But Saudi Arabia took more goods and services from the United States, Japan, Britain and West Germany.

Officials detect signs of a pick-up in exports since France has signed 3,500-million francs worth of contracts including deals covering extensions at Jeddah and Jizan ports as well as highway projects.

Other contracts relate to a sea water desalination plant, colour television, hydrocarbon storage capacity, schools, cables and medical equipment.

### U.S. is "satisfied" over Israeli resale of American engines for Mystere fighters

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, (R). — The United States considers closed the case of Israel's sale to Honduras of six to eight Super Mystere fighter planes equipped with American engines, a State Department spokesman said yesterday.

American officials had expressed some concern about the Israeli sale since the planes had been refitted with Pratt and Whitney engines in apparent contravention of U.S. law that requires Washington's permission before military hardware can be resold.

State Department spokesman Robert Funseth told reporters: "we consider the matter closed."

He said Israeli ambassador Simcha Dinitz had provided a satisfactory explanation of the sale to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on Friday and "we accepted that explanation."

Mr. Dinitz told reporters on Friday that the engines were five to 10 years old and had been cannibalised from other damaged aircraft. He said the Mysteres "are obsolete as far as Israel is concerned."

Mr. Funseth said Israel contemplated no such sales in future. The planes were delivered during 1975 and 1976.

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# Bad frosts in Brazil increase price of your coffee ... and it may not fall

*But the Brazilian planters laugh all the way to the bank*

The price of coffee has risen steeply in the last twelve months and is now well over £2,000 a tonne. One big reason for this is the very hard frost that hit the main coffee growing area of Brazil -- the world's largest producer -- in July 1976. It virtually wiped out the 1976-77 crop in one state and severely cut it back in others. Despite the fact that the Brazilian growers have sold much less than the year before, they actually stand to earn about £600m more than they did for the 1975-76 crop.

By Patrick Knight

RIO DE JANEIRO (Gemini) — Why is it that your coffee is now costing you at least twice as much as it did a year ago? It will soon be so valuable that the precious stuff will have to be kept under lock and key.

There are several reasons for the soaring price, ranging from the war in Angola, an earthquake in Guatemala, floods in Colombia and the disturbances in Southern Africa.

But the most important cause is that Brazil suffered the worst frost on record last year. More than two-thirds of this year's crop was destroyed and millions of coffee bushes were affected.

Brazil is the giant on the coffee scene. It grows two-thirds of the world's production, usually producing some 20-25 million bags a year, much of it destined to make instant coffee. This year's crop only came to about eight million bags, and almost five million bags are needed for the Brazilians themselves.

The country held fairly good stocks of coffee at the beginning of the year, probably 11 million bags, so the heaviest blows have been delayed for some time.

Now that stocks are beginning to run down, Brazil, like any country lucky enough to be in a position of having something that everybody wants, is now doing all it can to take advantage of the shortage. It knows that things will

get worse before they will get better.

Heavy frosts in the plantations seriously affected the bushes -- some 15-20 years old -- and they had to be pruned right back to the ground. It will be at least another year before they are back to sufficient size and maturity to produce once more.

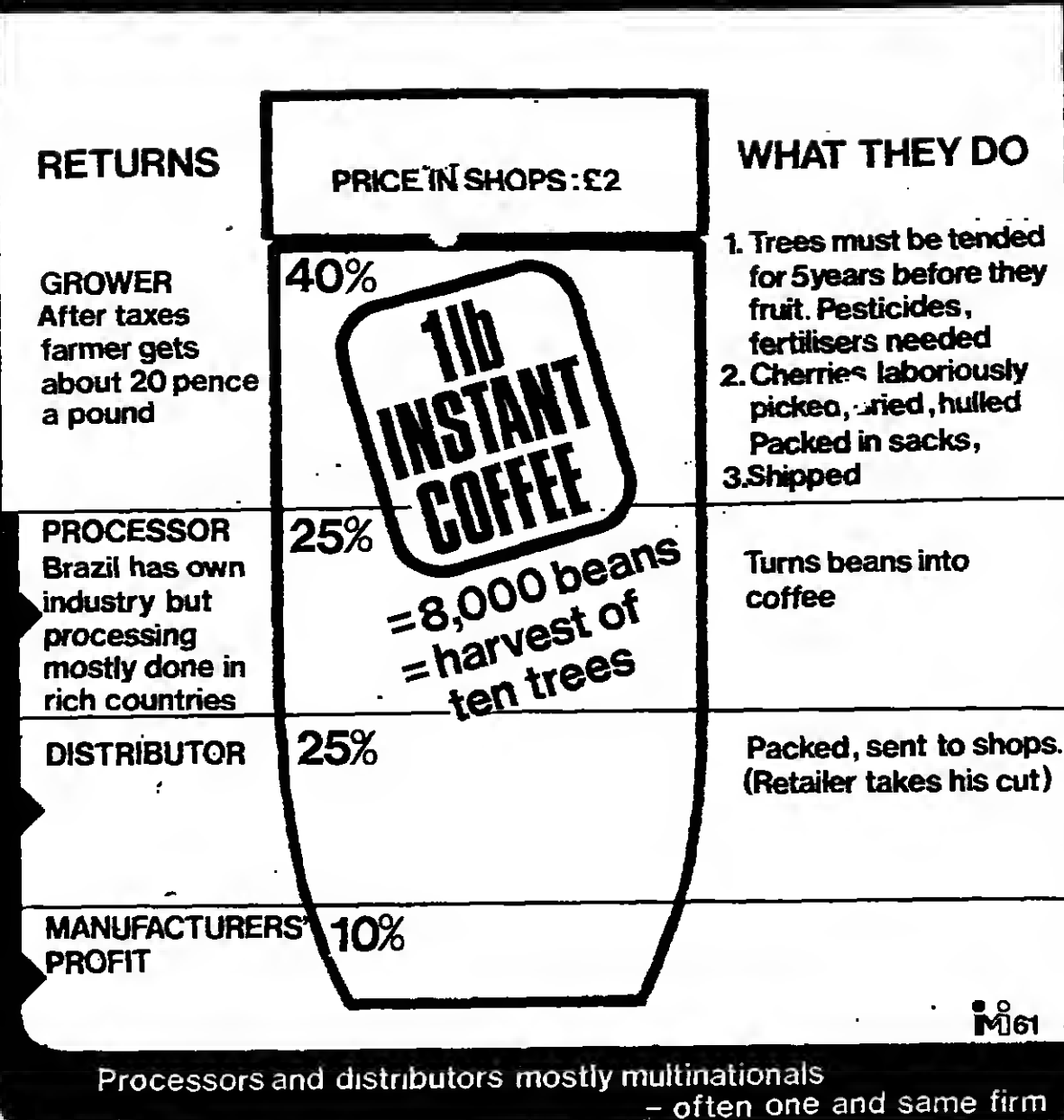
Besides the pruning of many millions of bushes, millions of others were actually pulled up by farmers who decided to take the compensation paid by the government and plant something else.

Coffee is now being planted further north in the country than in the past, as new roads and railways make transport easier and cheaper. States such as Minas Gerais, Espirito Santo, Rio de Janeiro and Bahia, where frosts are unlikely, are planting coffee for the first time since the 1930's.

Even in Parana, the major coffee growing state and where the worst damage was caused, bushes are now being planted only on high land, which is less affected by frost.

If the rest of the world is unhappy as coffee prices pass the £2000 a tonne mark, the Brazilians are laughing all the way to the bank. Even though they have sold far less this year than usual -- only about 10 million sacks, instead of the usual 15 million -- they will have made more than twice as much from it this year as last.

## YOUR JAR OF COFFEE



They stand to earn £1,000 million or more, as opposed to £400 million last year so for them the frost was a blessing in disguise. It is reckoned that by 1978, production will be back to 80 per cent of what it was a couple of years ago and that by 1979, right back to normal, or even above.

It is unlikely that the price will drop back to what it was. Coffee is a very labour-intensive industry. Tens of thousands of people were employed picking the ripe beans and in the drying beds. Thousands have lost their jobs since last July when the frosts occurred, and this has created a social problem in Brazil.

Most of these workers have moved away from the coffee growing areas. It is unlikely that they will go back even when the bushes do sprout again. Most of them have headed north to Amazonia, in search of a plot of their own to cultivate.

Tests are now being made with a coffee picking machine, a huge affair which was first developed in the United States for picking blueberry bushes. Fully mature coffee bushes grow at least three metres and they are about two metres across at the base.

Each machine costs about £20,000 and it is not expected that it will be in general production before 1978. It gently shakes the bush so that the ripe beans fall into containers, leaving the unripe beans until later. It requires only three men to operate and unload it. Each machine will be able to replace up to 300 pickers, but whether it will really keep the prices down and will work efficiently remains to be seen.

In the meantime, attracted by the high prices, lots of new growers around the world are doing all they can to increase production. In about two-years-time coffee should again be a relatively cheap drink as a result of this.

## FATE OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT RESTS ON RENEWED ECONOMIC VIGOUR IN COMING YEARS

LONDON (CSM). — British Prime Minister James Callaghan and his cabinet have their backs to the wall.

If the public spending cuts announced the week before Christmas and the \$3.9 billion International Monetary Fund loan agreed to that same week fail to restore international confidence in Britain, then the government is finished. Sources within the government freely concede that another steep decline of the pound would mean the end of Mr. Callaghan's administration.

That is the gloomy side of Britain's story in these waning days of a year that started with reasonably high hopes of an export-led recovery. But there are, as always, rays of hope.

A survey by the Confederation of British Industries conducted during the first two weeks of December showed that a slow recovery of manufacturing output was underway. Businesses reported that orders had risen during the past four months and expected the trend to continue during the coming three months. A strong rise in export orders continues, especially in consumer goods.

A sharp rise in imports during the second and third quarters of the year is accounted for mainly by the requirements of North Sea installations. But these enormous investments (over \$15,000 must be spent for every daily barrel of oil extracted, compared with only \$400 in the Middle East) are finally beginning to pay off.

This year Britain got 20 million tons of oil from the North Sea. Next year, the amount could rise to 35 million tons, between one-third and one-half of Britain's oil requirements, according to Dr. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State at the Department of Energy. "We are not down and out; we

are on the way up," Dr. Mabon said at an offshore oil conference in Birmingham last month.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research, in a quarterly forecast at the end of November, predicted that Britain would have a current-account surplus of £1 billion next year of £5 billion the year after. This was mainly because it expected British exports to rise while the price of imports remained steady because of the sluggish state of the world economy.

Hope has less tangible aspects as well. The public spending cuts announced by Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey have been criticised as too little, too late. But they were preceded by some of the most thorough discussion any British cabinet ever been through.

Leftwing ministers like Tony Benn, the Energy Secretary, Peter Shore, the Environment Secretary, were given every opportunity to argue for their favoured solution -- import curbs. Ministers of rightist persuasion turned their case for the importance of restoring international confidence in the pound with equal vigour.

The dividend, for Mr. Callaghan has been a reasonably united front on matters (such as when the public spending axe should fall) about which passionate vicissitudes are held. Public opinion also generally knows that this is Britain's last chance to put its economic house in order.

Will this realisation be translated into concrete decisions by company boardrooms and on all levels and to win back Britain's reputation for quality? That is the largest intangible all, and on it rests the fate of government and ultimately of British people.

### ... AND WHAT THE BRITISH THINK

LONDON, (AFP). — More than half of the British public thinks that Mr. Jack Jones, head of the powerful Transport and General Workers' Union, today wields more influence than the prime minister in Britain, according to a Gallup poll.

The poll, conducted shortly before Christmas for the British Broadcasting Corporation, showed that 54 per cent of those polled saw Mr. Jones as the most prominent person in the country, 25 per cent chose Prime Minister James Callaghan and five per cent only Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, head of the opposition Conservative Party.

Britain's economic situation was, in addition, seen as a major source for concern by 94 per cent of those polled. According to the same poll, 74 per cent of those polled have confidence in the ability of politicians and political parties to solve the country's problems.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

### RADIO JORDAN

(On 856 KHZ)

7:00 Morning melodies	15:00 Concert hour
7:30 News	16:00 Old favourites
7:40 News reports	16:30 Easy listening
8:00 Sign off	17:00 Play of the week
12:00 Pop session	17:30 Pop session
13:00 News summary	18:00 News summary
13:05 Pop session	18:05 Pop session
14:00 News	18:30 Science report
14:10 Radio magazine	19:00 News
14:30 Music made easy	19:10 News report
14:45 15 weekly	19:30 Sign off

### EMERGENCIES

<b>Doctors :</b>	Jabal Al Hashimi (51699)
<b>Amman :</b>	Nihad (30844)
<b>Irbid :</b>	Irbid :
Sa'di Dabbour (66650)	Al Shifa
Zein Zaghloul (38591)	
<b>Zarqa :</b>	Zarqa :
Mit'eb Khalaf	Al Adham
Al Jaza'ir	
<b>Taxis :</b>	
Radwan Abu Hammad (83043)	Feisal (22051)
<b>Pharmacies :</b>	Jerusalem (36955)
<b>Amman :</b>	Shmeisani (21523)
Habayeb (44930)	Neel (44433)
Al Salam (36730)	

### VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT	
03:00	The Breakfast Show :
to 03:30, 04:00, 05:00 and 06:00	
06:30	GMT : News, Regional and
	Topical Reports; VOA Current News Summary.
03:30, 04:30 and 05:30	
GMT :	An informal presentation of popular music with feature reports and interviews, answers to listeners' questions, Science Digest.
17:00	News Roundup. Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary.
17:30	Dateline.
18:00	Special English. News, Feature : Space and Man. News Summary.
18:30	Music USA (Standards)
19:00	News Roundup. Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary.
19:30	VOA Magazine. Americana, Science, Cultural, Letters.
20:00	Special English. News.
20:15	Music USA (Jazz).
21:00	VOA World Report : News, newsmakers' voices, correspondents' reports, background features, media comments, news analyses.

### AMMAN AIRPORT

Departures :	Arrivals :
8:00 Beirut	6:45 Jeddah
8:00 Aqaba	8:20 Muscat, Doha
8:45 Beirut (MEA)	8:45 Karachi, Abu Dhabi
9:05 Rome (Alitalia)	9:50 Aqaba
10:50 Athens, Amsterdam (KLM)	11:15 Beirut
11:00 Vienna, Copenhagen	14:15 Athens (GA)
11:15 Damascus, Aleppo	14:20 Jeddah (SDI)
12:00 London	16:30 Aleppo, Damascus
12:45 Cairo	17:55 Amsterdam, Brussels, Geneva
15:00 Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GA)	19:15 Cairo
15:45 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI)	19:40 Beirut (MEA)
18:55 Kuwait, Dhahran	19:50 London (BA)
20:00 Baghdad	21:25 Frankfurt, Munich, Damascus (Lufthansa)
20:35 Rawalpindi (BA)	

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Ambulance (government) ...	Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue ...	" 24391-4
Fire headquarters ...	" 22090
First aid, fire, police ...	" 19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) ...	" 36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency) ...	" 37111-3
Police headquarters ...	" 39141
Najdeh, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	" 21111, 37777

### Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS) ...	Tel. 41520
British Council ...	" 36147-8
French Cultural Centre ...	" 37009
Goethe Institute ...	" 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre ...	" 44203
Amman Municipal Library ...	" 36111

### BBC RADIO

GMT		
05:00	World News; 24 hours	15:00 Radio Newsreel
05:30	Sarah Ward	15:15 Outlook
05:45	The World Today	16:00 News; Commentary
06:00	News; Press Review	16:15 Just a Minute
06:30	Terry Wogan's LP Showcase	16:45 The World Today
07:00	News; 24 hours	17:00 News
07:30	Sarah Ward	17:09 Discovery
07:45	Report on Religion	17:40 Book Choice
08:00	News	17:45 Sports Round-up
08:15	The Mill on the Floss	18:00 News; Radio Newsreel
08:30	John Peel	18:30 Top Twenty
09:00	News; Press Review	19:00 Outlook : News Summary
09:30	Financial News	19:40 Stock Market Report
09:45	Paperbacks	19:45 Dances of Old Vienna
10:00	Talkabout	20:00 News; 24 hours
10:30	Command Performance	20:30 David Gell's Music
11:00	News	21:00 Report on Religion
11:15	Business and Industry	21:15 Wales '77
11:30	Farming World	21:30 Composer and Interpreter
12:00	Radio Newsreel	22:00 News; The World Today
12:15	David Gell's Music	22:25 Financial News
12:45	Sports Round-up	22:45 Sports Round-up
13:00	News; 24 hours	23:00 News; Commentary
13:30	World Radio Club	
13:45	A Jolly Good Show	
14:30	The Sherlock Holmes Society	

### JORDAN TELEVISION

<b>Channel 3 &amp; 6 :</b>	9:20 Reportage
6:00 Quran	
6:05 Cartoons	
6:30 Agricultural programme	
7:00 Lucy show	7:30 News in Hebrew
8:00 News in Arabic	7:45 Varieties
	8:30 Doctor in charge
	9:10 The Fallers
<b>Channel 3 :</b>	10:00 News in English
7:30 Sports programme	10:15 Mystery movie (Quincy)
8:30 Arabic series	

مركز الصحافة







## Fiat chairman calls for greater Arab participation

TURIN, Jan. 18 (AFP). — Chairman of the Fiat Board Giovanni Agnelli stated today that he would welcome further purchases of stock by Arab nations, after a Fiat shareholders meeting, which approved the sale to Libya of a 9.6 per cent stake in the company. But, he told reporters, "unfortunately" there have not been any other offers.

An extraordinary meeting of stockholders voted 639 to two for ratification of the agreement, under which Libya will put \$415 million into the troubled auto giant.

Under the plan, to be carried out by the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank, Fiat will issue new shares and bonds to Libya.

The Agnelli family, which maintains effective control of the com-

pany, will see its share shrink to 30 per cent from 82 per cent. The 532 stockholders voting in favour of the deal represented about 158 million shares. The two voting against -- plus one abstention -- represented 53 shares.

Meanwhile, in Rome, three Socialist Democrats called today for an official probe of possible stock manipulation in connection with the recent jump in shares of Pirelli, the tyre giant, after rumours that it might buy a Middle East oil-producing nation.

was planning to buy a stake. The rumours, given saturation coverage in the press, said the purchase would be similar to Libya's agreement to pump fresh capital into Fiat.

The MP. noted that Pirelli shares rose approximately 50 per cent on the rumours, which were formally denied by Board Chairman Leopoldo Pirelli at a news conference on Jan. 7.

The denial, they said, pulled the rug out from under the market, forcing a halt in Pirelli trading later that day.

## BREZHNEV: U.S., USSR MUST COOPERATE ON MIDEAST MEET

MOSCOW, Jan. 18 (AP). — Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev said today that since the conflicting partners in the Middle East appear ready to take part in the Geneva conference, cooperation between the two superpowers -- the United States and the Soviet Union -- must have more importance.

Meanwhile, new United States Ambassador to the Soviet Union Malcolm Toon today urged fresh efforts towards closer ties between the two countries. He was presenting his credentials to Soviet leader Nikolai Podgorny.

Mr. Toon succeeds Walter Stoen, Jr., now U.S. Ambassador to West Germany. Mr. Toon is a career diplomat and a former ambassador to Israel.

"Given mutual desire, they could do much to help the sides in the search for mutually acceptable solutions," he said.

Mr. Brezhnev, speaking in the city of Tula, south of Moscow, said the Middle East needed "a just and lasting settlement that would not impinge on the vital rights of any state and people."

He said the Arab side must fight to state independence and a secure existence. But the Arab people of Palestine have a similar right.

Mr. Brezhnev further urged U.S. President-elect Jimmy Carter to give top priority to attaining a new Soviet-American agreement.

## LEBANESE WOUNDED IN AIRPORT FIGHT

FRANKFURT, West Germany, Jan. 18 (R). — A Lebanese man was shot and wounded in a struggle with police on the visitors terrace at Frankfurt airport today, an airport spokesman said.

The incident happened while Israeli Ambassador Yohanan Meron was at the airport with his son, who was returning to Tel Aviv, but police said it did not appear there was any connection.

The 30-year-old man, who was not named, was challenged by a policeman after he was seen acting suspiciously.

He leaped over a chest-high barrier then turned and tried to wrest the policeman's sub-machine-gun from him. It went off three times and two bullets hit the man in the thigh and knee.

Police, who refused to give further details, said he was taken to hospital.

## Will history evaluate Ford's term of office as positively as the man himself judges it

By Bernard Ullmann

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (AFP) — Outgoing President Gerald Ford has described his term of office as very positive, but while this is true to some extent, it must in fairness be questioned.

He managed to restore American confidence in the U.S. leadership after the traumatic Watergate affair and put the wobbling national economy "back on the rails" as he claimed but these together were not enough to get him elected on Nov. 2.

For while American troops had quit Vietnam when Mr Ford became president, fighting was still going on there between the North and South. On April 10, 1975, when it was evident that Saigon was about to fall, Mr Ford and his Secretary of State Henry Kissinger made a desperate, and unsuccessful last bid, to persuade Congress to vote an additional \$1,000 million of aid to South Vietnam.

But at the beginning of May, both Saigon and Phnom Penh fell

to the Communists and the U.S. Stars and Stripes flags under their arms, were evacuated at the last moment with remaining Americans.

There was a final sequel with the "Mayaguez" affair, enabling Mr Ford to control personally the intervention of the marines to free an American freighter and its crew seized by the Khmer Rouge on May 14, 1975, and show his qualities as a leader in a hot spot. But 18 American troops were killed and 50 wounded -- more than the freighter's crew.

There was a spectacular boost to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) when Mr Ford met Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in Vladivostok and concluded an agreement, in principle, on a joint quantitative level of nuclear warheads. But subsequent SALT talks in Geneva held fire for the next two years over the issues of the American "Cruise" missiles and the Soviet "Backfire" bombers.

The record of the Ford administration, and particularly Mr Kissin-

ger, was hardly more fruitful in the Middle East.

Mr Kissinger made a spectacular "shuttle diplomacy" trip which resulted in Israel and Egypt signing a second interim agreement on Sept. 4, 1975 in Geneva.

Mr Kissinger managed to wear down Soviet influence in the Middle East, underlined by successive visits to Washington by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, which showed American dominance in the region.

Mr Kissinger was less successful in performing a "miracle" in Southern Africa. Following the Cuban military intervention in Angola, Mr Kissinger made two trips -- in April and September 1976 -- to seek peaceful solutions to problems in Rhodesia and Namibia (South West Africa).

No solution at all is in sight for Namibia while bloody white-black clashes are becoming more numerous in South Africa itself. In Rhodesia, interested parties are awaiting the outcome of the apparently stalled talks chaired by Britain's

## Some 90 dead, 80 injured in Australia's worst rail crash

SYDNEY, Jan. 18 (R). — Exhausted rescue teams hacked their way tonight through the twisted, blood-soaked wreckage of a Sydney commuter train which left the rails and slammed into a bridge killing an estimated 90 people.

The crash, Australia's worst rail tragedy, injured 80 others. Banks of high-powered lights bathed a scene of carnage along the rail tracks of suburban Granville, 24 kms. west of Sydney. The packed commuter express rumbled into a bridge support bringing down the concrete overhead roadway onto its 40-year-old wooden carriages.

## Future of French guillotine poised in balance as trial of salesman Henry starts

TROYES, France, Jan. 18, (R). — French salesman Patrick Henry, whose case has pitted advocates of the death penalty against abolitionists, went on trial here for the kidnapping and murder of an eight-year-old boy.

The packed courthouse was hushed as Mr. Henry, smartly dressed in a three-piece blue suit,

was brought before a jury which included three women. Maitre Robert Badinter, one of the accused man's two lawyers told the jury: "The death penalty is at the very heart of our debate."

About 200 police were sent to this Champagne town in eastern France to check possible disturbances. But only 50 curious or loquacious onlookers stood outside the sandstone courthouse in the freezing cold.

Mr. Henry's case has been given saturation coverage by the national news media, prompting Frenchmen to reflect on future of the guillotine.

Opinion polls show seven people out of 10 favouring the death penalty. But President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who has a final say on the fate of a condemned murderer, opposes the guillotine.

Mr. Henry is charged with kidnapping and murder last February of the youngster Philippe Bertrus whose strangled body was found tied up in a sleeping bag in a boarding-house room rented by the 23-year-old salesman.

But his efforts were not successful in bringing down unemployment, work force at the end of 1976.

Mr Ford entered the White House in Aug. 1974 when the administration was paralysed by Watergate. He was successful in restoring people's confidence in the nation's leadership, and even his most bitter enemies concede this achievement.

History will judge the true worth of a president, honest and sincere, who lacked the mystique of a true leader.

## INDIAN ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN MARCH

NEW DELHI, Jan. 18 (AFP). — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today announced that elections for the country's lower house of parliament will be held in March. In a broadcast speech, Mrs. Gandhi said she had already made a formal recommendation to President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed that the present house be dissolved.

## WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

DOHA, Jan. 18 (R). — The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, today received a written message from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat. The message was delivered by the PLO representative here, Mr. Yassin al-Bakri, who said it reviewed the present circumstances of the Palestinian revolution and thanked Qatar for its consistent support for the Palestinian cause.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Jan. 18 (AFP). — The ashes of executed convict Gary Gilmore will be scattered from an aircraft over his home town of Provo, a family spokesman said after the body was cremated last night.

BONN, Jan. 18 (R). — Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti today began his second round of talks with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt here after hearing of West Germany's support for his government's economic austerity measures. Before resuming his discussions with the West German leader, Signor Andreotti had breakfast with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and was received by President Walter Scheel.

KHARTOUM, Jan. 18 (AFP). — Sudanese Vice President and Premier Rashid Al Taher returned last night from a 10-day official tour of Egypt, Syria and Iraq. Mr. Taher, who stopped over in Cairo for a short meeting with his counterpart Mamdouh El-Baradei, said a summit meeting would take place here next month between Sudan, Egypt and Syria.

MOSCOW, Jan. 18 (R). — The Soviet chapter of the London-based human rights group Amnesty International today called on the signatories of the Helsinki declaration to press for the release of political prisoners in Eastern Europe. The appeal also addressed to other amnesty groups, was read on the telephone to foreign correspondents by the head of the chapter, Dr. Vladimir Lukin. He said democratic rights were being ignored in Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia.

NIAMEY, Niger, Jan. 18 (AFP). — Benin authorities today called for market-places to be cleared in the northern suburbs of the port of Cotonou, scene of an abortive coup d'etat Sunday. Calling for an orderly dispersal, Cotonou Radio said that the population should not be afraid. In Paris meanwhile, the Beninese Embassy said between 100 and 150 mercenaries had landed at Cotonou on Sunday.

## LONDON MARKET REPORT

The stock exchange moved sharply ahead again Tuesday, with sentiment helped by the improvement in Britain's overseas trade during December and hopes of an early cut in interest rates, although profit-taking developed towards the close.

Leading industrials to make progress included Glaxo, Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), Beecham, Tube Investments, Connaughts, Pilkington and Unilever. The Financial Times industrial shares index rose 6.7 to 381.1, its highest since last July.

Gold prices staged another active session, with Middle East and continental demand, but early gains were pared.

Properties were wanted and buildings also fared well. Breweries gained ground following news of a massive expansion plan.

Stores were firm despite reports of worse-than-expected end-of-year sales.

Banks were quieter by contrast, although mostly firm. Oils were irregular, with British Petroleum and Shell reverting to overnight levels after early rises.

Gold moved up with the higher bullion price; this edged higher and De Beers were firm, but Pancontinental dipped on the Australian list.

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- Isuzu Gemini coupé (General Motors), 1976 model, white, 1,600 cubic cms, 12,000 kms. Duty not paid. JD 975.

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